

PATENT

Atty. Dkt. No. ATT 2001-0455

REMARKS**I. ELECTION/RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT**

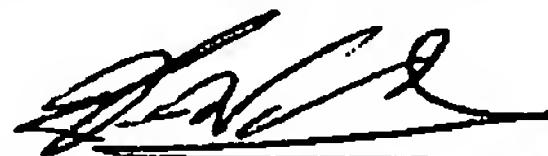
The Examiner asserts that claims 1-8 and 21-27 (Species I) and 16-20 (Species II) are patentably distinct species. The Applicants elect claims 16-20 of Species II in the invention without traverse. Accordingly, Applicants request claims 16-20 of Species II to be examined in response to the restriction requirement and cancel claims 1-15 and 21-27 without prejudice. Applicants reserve the right to subsequently file one or more divisional applications in order to prosecute the inventions recited in any one or more of the non-elected groups of claims.

Conclusion

Thus, the Applicants submit that all of these claims now fully satisfy the requirements for patentability. Consequently, the Applicants believe that all these claims are presently in condition for allowance. Accordingly, both reconsideration of this application and its swift passage to issue are earnestly solicited.

If, however, the Examiner believes that there are any unresolved issues requiring the issuance of a final action in any of the claims now pending in the application, it is requested that the Examiner telephone Mr. Kin-Wah Tong, Esq. at (732) 530-9404 so that appropriate arrangements can be made for resolving such issues as expeditiously as possible.

Respectfully submitted,



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